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Majles Sessions

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RESALAT Reports on Majles Sessions

11 Dec

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[Unattributed report: "Report on Yesterday's Open Session of the Majles"]

[Excerpts] Legislative and Parliamentary Division—At the open session of the Majles held yesterday, chaired by Mr. Bayat, several bills were ratified after the pre-agenda speeches.

'Abbas 'Abbasi, Bandar 'Abbas Deputy

Confronting the respected Council of Guardians and inviting it to a political debate brings back bitter memories of the constitutional revolt.

The first pre-agenda speaker was 'Abbas 'Abbasi from Bandar 'Abbas, who started by expressing his condolences on the anniversary of the martyrdom of her holiness Zahra, peace be upon her and her family. He said: Unfortunately, one of the regrettable things that has happened to the Prophet' family, peace be upon them and their families, is that the life story of Zahra, the holy one, has been mentioned among the life stories of the disciples, whereas it should have been mentioned in the verses of the Koran and in the prayer verses.

He commented on the Islamic heads of state summit in Senegal and said: The ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] had a historic summit due to the presence of a great president and a wise holy man in its midst. The members of that organization should know that nothing will come of groveling to the major powers or depending on them.

This is why relying on the United States will not gain them anything beyond what has already come to exist. They must only rely on God and on Islam's principles. If they utter anything other than what was said by the great leader of the revolution, which is: Yes to Islam and Palestine, no to the United States and oppression, they will only have spoken for themselves and not on behalf of Islamic society or the Islamic ummah.

'Abbasi continued his speech by saying that the policy of an open economy was very successful. He added: Our people should be trusted more than ever before. The people should be given various tasks and the regime must be in charge of policy-making, planning, controlling, and strengthening our defense capability and strengthening the judicial power. Trade and commerce is not suitable for government.

The speaker then commented on some deputies confronting the Council of Guardians and said:

Confronting the Council of Guardians and inviting it to a political debate brings back bitter memories of the constitutional revolt and the beginning of the revolution when the small groups used to invite leaders of the revolution to debates. If the Council of Guardians has expressed a view or presented an analysis, why should some people, knowingly or unknowingly, take this personally? Even if in the Council's analysis some people do come under question, this is how the Council should be treated [Koranic verse.]

He added: When something is said about a minister, they say that is weakening the minister, the government, and the regime. But as to the clerical members of the Council of Guardians, who have been chosen by the Imam—is this the way to treat them?

In another section of his speech, the speaker talked about the comments made by the deputy from Minab and added: Mr. Zol-Qadr, the respected deputy from Minab, recently spoke about a meeting in the presence of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He was not a member of that group and he was not present at that meeting. As an observer, I say that Mr. Zol-Qadr was told something to make fun of him. What he says of that meeting is baseless and completely wrong. As far as the cleanliness of Bandar 'Abbas is concerned, either Mr. Zol-Qadr does not know where Bandar 'Abbas is, or else he does not know the difference between clean and dirty. I am hereby inviting him to get to know Bandar 'Abbas by visiting the areas of Nakhl-e Nakhoda, Eslam-Abad, Shomiliha, and Kamar-Bandi.

The deputy from Bandar 'Abbas then criticized the minister of interior and said: Despite various attempts, the minister of interior and his ministry have unfortunately not been able to or have not wanted to make a decision which is in the area's and the ministry's favor.

Mr. Interior Minister, do you not know the situation of your own governors general? In 1988, I spoke to you about Mr. Khorram and I told you that he is an unpleasant element. I now repeat that sentence. Unfortunately, he has three qualities: mismanagement of things, lack of supervision, and a lack of proper behavior in an office atmosphere. He interferes in judicial matters. Should these issues not be investigated?

Mr. Interior Minister, are you not aware of what happened in the vicinity of the Minab governor's office? Are you not aware of the issues regarding the district governor of Khomeyr and his deputy and the mayor in one district of Bandar 'Abbas? Are you not aware of the confrontation between forces [as published] in Hormozgan province and the people and those Godless troublemakers? Do you not know about the issues concerning Captain Naderi? Are you not familiar with the actions of the Ministry of Interior in Khuzestan and Bakhtaran with regard to reconstruction? If you really are not aware, then you are chronically ignorant. If you do know and are unable to decide, then you should think of a solution. You should know that you have a share in the problems. If you are aware and able but still refuse to do something, then you are being cruel to the people.

Mr. Interior Minister, there are several problems in the Ministry of Interior. First is your lack of competence to head the ministry. Second is that the Ministry of Interior is like a house beyond repair which should be knocked down and rebuilt from scratch.

I ask that the Majles and the respected deputies look into issues concerning the Ministry of Interior.

Asadollah Razavi, Kerman Deputy

Officials are more often scrutinized by the people and the people regard their good or bad deeds as actions of the regime.

Asadollah Razavi, the deputy from Kerman, was the second pre-agenda speaker who said: The cultural onslaught which the great leader has warned about is not a simple issue that can be ignored. Our Islamic revolution, more than anything else, had a cultural message. The enemies of the revolution did not manage to change the direction of this revolution, even with an imposed war, a boycott, economic sanctions, or other economic means. Now they believe that with a cultural onslaught they can destroy the revolution from within. This is why it is up to all people to defend the revolution and their own identity and to disappoint the enemy, ev[illegible] in this cultural war.

In this regard, he added: Unfortunately, we are used to blaming others. So before we can start blaming the cultureless Westerners as the main culprits or blame the internal opposition, we must first blame ourselves because we have not managed to properly utilize the rich Islamic culture. We should question why we have not been able to make the people immune to the worrisome influence of illegal video tape imports or television pictures that leak from neighboring countries or satellites. Of course, it would be naive to think that the promotion of such things in society will not make a difference. In this regard, perhaps one of the problems that we have had is that despite the clear order to [Koranic verse], most of the cultural work has been in speeches or in theaters. It is even more unfortunate that despite God's clear words to [Koranic verse] we have asked others to do the things that we have not done ourselves. This list includes inviting people to unity, having patience, and having a spirit of accepting criticism, which is often mentioned by political groups. I hope to God that my speech will not be in this category.

Razavi added: Among the elements of success in the eight-year imposed war were relying on God, the culture and sacrifice of the volunteers, recognition of the enemy's position, proper utilization of equipment, and planned programing. With regard to the cultural onslaught, we must keep mind the same five points. Of course, in connection with the last three points, the enemies of the revolution have more financial facilities and advanced technology. But when it comes to cultural issues, fortunately spiritual values have the last say. This is the reason why Muslim peoples in the northern neighboring republics tolerated 70 years of pressure and anti-religious dictatorship but kept many of their Islamic traditions. On the other hand, Western culture is very backward in this area and that is why they are trying to destroy our Islamic culture.

He continued his speech by quoting the United Nations figures for human growth in 1991 and said: According to table number 28 of this report, the number of prisoners in the United States from 1980 to 1985 was 426 out of every 100,000. This means an average of one in 235 people has been in prison. It would have been a good idea if the UN human rights' envoy had also seen this figure. Also, during these years, the reports indicate that 114 women out of every 100,000 between the ages of 15 to 59 were raped in the United States. This means that more than one person out of every 1,000 was raped. This figure shows the depth of the catastrophe, keeping in mind the immorality and the sexual freedom that exists there. In order to show the real face of the United States, this false defender of human rights, I had no choice but to quote those figures openly. There are many such facts and figures and it is necessary to analyze them and discuss them with the people. Unfortunately, those who have come under a more severe cultural attack understand such figures better. If these people become immune, the rest of the people whose moral immunity has not been damaged will not be affected by the enemy's cultural onslaught.

The deputy from Kerman continued his speech by saying that no one knows and understands Islamic culture better than true and aware clergymen. He added: University Students and educated people, because of their constant contact with the effects of Western culture, could become the strongest of barriers against the effects of Western culture. This is why the first step that the enemy will take will be to separate the clerics from the students. This is why it is most important for the clergy to have utmost patience and understand the psychological situation of the educated groups. They must also recognize our place in the world and watch over us like a big brother. On the other hand, it is up to the educated classes to understand the position, influence, and power of the real clergy among our people. By joining ranks with the clerics, they must make the enemy lose hope. Both Sectors should also know that they will not achieve the Islamic revolution's goals without one another's help.

The speaker remembered the Day of Unity between clerics and students and asked God to bless the lofty spirit of the martyr Dr. Mofatteh who was the founder of the ideology of unity between student and cleric.

Razavi continued his speech by talking about the actions of officials, saying: The higher the official, the more he will be examined by the people. Usually it is the case that good or bad work by officials is credited to the entire regime. In this connection, I start with myself. It has happened many times that I have gone to public places such as the bread line in my constituency and no one has recognized me. This is self-criticism and it is regrettable.

If they recognize me later, I am surprised. It is the same with the executive power. You see how happy people are about the way officials give them replies. This is all a credit to the regime. The judicial power also falls in the same category. The judicial power has to be so strong and so well trusted that if anyone is called to appear in court, they would appear in court immediately.

The deputy from Kerman next talked about the arrest of two members of the Islamic Association at Amir Kabir University. He said: The issues of the Amir Kabir Technical University recently have been of the same nature. I have nothing to say regarding the accusations made against the people, but was it not possible to call them to appear in the court in a manner that would have pleased God, with the help of the head of the university? We have examples and models such as the trials of Imam 'Ali, peace be upon him and his family, where the criminals used to go to court of their own free will, without any sort of warning.

I hereby beg the great leader to intervene in this matter and issue the proper order, as he did during the Beheshti University dormitory affair, where he ended the matter peacefully. I am sorry that I have to take up the leader's time for such a simple issue, and in general I do not believe that such issues should be brought up on the open microphones of the Majles. But I had no choice because I felt it would have been a sin if I had remained quiet.

Assadollah Razavi talked about the coming Majles elections and said: The recent elections for the respected Assembly of Experts was an experience that should be used. In this connection, I would like to quote a passage from the great leader in his meeting with members of the respected Assembly of Experts. "Those who did not come to the Assembly of Experts, their personalities and their worth remain. It does not mean that they are not qualified. Many of them have high qualifications and are famous for their piety and have been with the revolution at various levels." Therefore, would it not be proper to arrange for inviting many of these people addressed by the leader to the Majles—to have the best of the best in the Majles so that the Majles can remain the focus of the people's wisdom?

Kamel Kheyrkhah, Lahijan Deputy

Kamel Kheyrkhah, deputy from Lahijan, spoke as the third pre-agenda speaker. Regarding the ICO heads of state summit in Senegal he said: This conference and other similar gatherings should lose their pomp and formal atmosphere. The heads of state who make decisions in Islamic countries should have a clear understanding of the disgusting state of the world's Muslims. They should feel pain and shame because of the pressure and force that is placed on Islam and the world's Muslims by the world aggressors, especially the criminal United States. They should at least unify and coordinate their efforts in the joint interests of the world's Muslims. That way not only will they gain the general trust of the Muslim masses, they will also give a proper meaning to the new world order that the United States is planning.

He said: There is no doubt that the United States is going through enormous confusion and arrogance as a result of victory in the Persian Gulf on the one hand, and the destruction of the communist world on the other.

The speaker added: We can already see the signs of the destruction of absolute U.S. dictatorship. The general European move toward political and monetary union is without a doubt meant to counter the United States and will be one of the important elements of political defeat for this looting monster.

Even more important than that, the heads of state of Islamic nations at the summit should have used their Islamic dignity and should have left U.S. clutches. For once, they should have rejected the Americans in order to safeguard the interests of the Muslims and their own Islamic dignity. They would have thus been able to break the Americans' spine and would have shown the power of Islamic ideology. Without a doubt, that way they would have created a special place for Islam and Muslims in the new world order.

The deputy from Lahijan continued his remarks: Certainly, the struggle against aggression and bullying throughout the world is one of the principles of the revolution and a holy pillar of Islam. In general, the fight against cruelty is a human instinct and causes humanity to grow. It is the most important principle in human society. This is why if someone is not in favor of holy crusade within the framework of Islamic ideology, either he does not know Islam or else he wrongly thinks Islam compromises with cruelty. In that case, he is not a Muslim. The question is this: Do we have to fight the enemy at all times and everywhere using one method or a recognized method of struggle?

Would it not make sense to cut losses and deliver heavier blows by using unknown methods in the fight?

He quoted the holy Koran and said: From this holy verse we understand well that changing tactics against the enemy is not only allowed, but is also a requirement.

The speaker added: I must say there are still those who knowingly and unknowingly want to base the regime on slogans. Is it right that we should make an effort to ruin our relations with many countries without gaining the least amount of political, social, or economic benefit? Is it right that we should swear at their leaders? If it were necessary during the first months or years after the revolution for us to give certain slogans in a special way, do we have to give the same slogans the same way today?

The deputy from Lahijan quoted part of the Imam's speech, may his passage to paradise be expedited, regarding the importance of time in religious decrees and the continuation of the imposed war until the destruction of evil in the world. He said: Why was it then that all of a sudden he decided to accept a ceasefire? Without a

doubt, slogans and behavior are governed by a need to safeguard the principle of the holy regime of the Islamic Republic.

He said: If we break diplomatic ties or worsen our relations with any country using any excuse, then put pressure on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and especially the respected president to move toward certain political goals, we will be all alone in the international community. That will mean that we will take steps against the interests of the regime and the Islamic ummah.

We must know that the people are tired of boring, old, and useless slogans. They do not want to hear such slogans, especially coming from their officials. We should use patience and wisdom to match our moves with the teachings of the Koran, based on the life-giving principles of Islam. Based on this, we should plan and organize the international policies of the Islamic Republic in an exact manner. Then we will be able to create a prosperous country with a liberated ummah and that way we will not only be the best role model for Muslims but for all humanity.

In another section of his speech, Kamel Kheyrkhah added: The Water Organization is, like other government organizations, facing operational costs and a severe lack of funds. But are they supposed to put pressure on the dear farmers at this time to make up for the shortages and to make up for their losses?

The farmers are asking why the Water Organization is charging them for water for those fields which are irrigated by pumps, costing them a lot of money.

We believe that in such cases either the Water Organization has to provide the water for the farmers or at the very least not charge the owners of these types of farms. This is something that was approved in a joint meeting between the deputies from Gilan province with the minister of energy and the appropriate deputy ministers last year.

The deputy from Lahijan said: Unfortunately, I must say that some respected officials of the regime still do not evaluate the effects of some interviews. For example our brother Mr. 'Adeli, the respected governor of the Central Bank, announced clearly a few days ago that within the next few months inflation will go up by more than 25 percent. Does this not cause panic among the people and cause hoarding by some who will abuse the situation?

The second point is that they say we have reached the conclusion that control of supervision over the sale or pricing of goods is no use whatsoever. Have you honestly had proper control so far to be able to say whether or not it has been of some use? Do you believe that it is in the interest of the people to give opportunists a free hand? Do we not remember that Imam 'Ali, peace be unto him and his family, used to patrol the market in (Kufeh) with a sword tied to his waist to make sure that people were not treated in an unfair manner?

He added: We believe that the regime of the Islamic Republic should not be like a communist regime involved in the market and in the economy which kills any kind of motive in economic work. But we also believe that in the market of the Muslims there should not be all sorts of high prices, cheating, fraud, or in short, chaos.

The deputy from Lahijan concluded his speech by speaking about tea in his region adding: If enough attention is given to tea growing and if the tea-growers' rights are guaranteed, we will achieve self-sufficiency in this field within a short time.

Comments Made by the Deputy Speaker

After the pre-agenda speeches, Assadollah Bayat, the second deputy speaker of the Majles, gave a speech. He said: The events that occur at this time prove the innocence and the rightful position of our great and heroic people.

He continued his speech by commenting on the UN recognition of Iraq as the aggressor in the war against Iran and added: These events make us familiar with the depth of the greatness of the Imam's predictions. He used to say that even if we continued the war for 20 years, our innocence would become more and more obvious. This proves the real nature of the prophet-like leadership of the Imam, may his passage to paradise be expedited, and the greatness of the people's resistance as well as the value of our dear armed forces.

He added: The Islamic Republic has at various times announced its steadfast position with regard to world issues and regional matters, especially in connection with the innocence of the Palestinian people and the only way to liberate the Palestinian people. With great joy, we can see this meaning announced again in the speeches of the Imam, the great leader, and the exact statement given to the Tehran conference by the respected president. Thank God we see once again the same clear position expressed at the ICO heads of state summit. We thank the respected president Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani for his position regarding serious and all-out support for the innocent Palestinian people and support for the uprising which is the only way to liberate these innocent people. We announce our full backing for this position.

At the conclusion, he talked about the martyrdom of Ayatollah Dastgheyb, the second martyr of the mosque, and remembered the struggles of that great martyr.

Hoseyni Shahrudi, Regulations' Warning

Seyyed Hoseyn Hoseyni, deputy from Shahrud, spoke in accordance with article 77 of the Majles internal regulations and gave a reply to the insinuations made during the speech given on Saturday by Sadeq Khalkhali.

I am very sorry about the fact that during this Third Majles, item 77 of the internal regulations has been put to use many times—with its use increasing day by day.

This shows a downward trend in behavior about which the lofty spirit of the Imam would not be happy. This is the same Imam who once said of the Majles that we all have to be teachers in behavior. He asked us to use the weapon of Islamic behavior to train the masses.

I take God as witness, what I said was for the good of society, the Ministry of Interior, as well as the minister of interior himself. I said some things within the framework of the Majles, within the context of an observation and in terms of my duty, in order to resolve some problems so that the people would not become dissapointed and isolated. I spoke with pain to prevent the people becoming cold-hearted and indifferent toward all the differences and self-centered attitudes at the Ministry of Interior. I gave people the hope that the Majles would speak for them. I said that the Majles would reflect all deviations. It was the jewel-like statement from the Imam which said: "All the country's problems will be resolved by those in the Majles." Despite all of this, we see that we weaken ourselves. We hide under the shell of factions and groups without hesitation. Instead of listening to the cries of pain coming from one deputy, whose constituents also feel pain, and instead of helping him if he is right, insults get thrown around and they make fun of him. Instead of looking into issues and problems, there is praise for the Ministry of Interior and its minister. Mr. Khalkhali does not see the sword that has come crashing down on the affections of the people. He accuses me of tying a sword to my waist.

During the past few days not one person asked what all the crying was all about. Instead, one of them said Mr. Nuri [minister of interior] is a source of pride for the clergy and another said Mr. Nuri is a source of pride for the government. Someone said he is a good manager with experience. The fourth person said he had received his directive from the departed Imam and yet another took the sycophancy so far that I am ashamed to repeat it. Perhaps this is in the hope that the Ministry of Interior, the governors general, and governors may be able to pay people back at election time. Little do they know that relying on anything other than God is like relying on a house built with cobwebs.

He added: I am a theological student. I said something out of sympathy so that maybe a movement, a reconsideration, or a solution could be put forth in this ministry. I was not aware that this dear Majles has become the plaything of some of our dear colleagues. One serious result of this is evident in the lengthy sentences of praise for the minister.

Having a directive from the Imam should be a source of pride and piety. It is not something to boast about, God forbid, or a reason to become a source of indifference toward the Majles and the people. The Imam himself once said: "It is better if you call me servant rather than leader." If we look through the archives, I think that after God, the Imam relied more on the people than anyone else. Would it not have been better for these dear people, who have been singing praises these last few days, to come forth and issue some answers to our problems? Support for a government and for its minister is to sing praises, but to voice problems and then to solve them. I think that being kind to a friend or to a government is to speak out about their faults, in private, and if that is not possible, in public, not hiding their faults. As Imam Sadeq once said: "Treason against a friend is to praise him without cause." If we see the faults but do not talk about them, the people are awake and they will talk about them. As I said in my previous speech, I believe that Mr. Nuri is religious. I also believe that he is a source of pride for the clergy. But what I did say is that these questions posed to the minister of interior and remain and that they should be answered.

Is the minister of interior responsible for security in the country or is he supposed to cause tension? According to some experts from both factions within the Majles, the Ministry of Interior is going through its weakest period. I do not want to say from these microphones that the security situation on our borders or even inside the country is now much better than before or if it is very much worse. Let the experts and the Ministry of Interior be the judge of that.

Our other question was the fact that we are now near another election. Experience has shown that elections always come with a little tension. Why is it that instead of removing tension from towns where the situation is tense, the Ministry of Interior is creating tension even in those towns that are quiet, united, and without issues? What was the problem in Qazvin? Why was it that they removed a governor from Qazvin who was known throughout the country as an outstanding governor, throwing the town into tension for no reason at all? What was wrong with Rey? The Ministry of Interior removed a governor from there who was well loved by all the people. Despite advise from the sympathetic people, it threw the town into chaos. Why is it that in Zanjan and dozens of other towns they act in such a way as to upset the people and their elected representatives?

Why is it that they do not look into the situation of the municipalities and why do they not listen to advice from sympathetic deputies and the long-suffering people? Why do they leave it until it is too late and the situation in some towns becomes as you have heard? The minister of interior must always safeguard the people's votes in an election. He must try to keep the elections safe from any harm. Despite this, with the hurried hiring and firing that he has done, he has strengthened this impression that the Ministry of Interior has no intention of safeguarding, that God forbid it wants to claim the elections itself. We had these and dozens of other questions for the Ministry of Interior. I hope that from now on we will not see this kind of praise, that the dear brothers will make an effort to solve problems and give logical answers that would please God instead of praising people. [passage omitted on ratifications]

* 5 Jan

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[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Division—The Majles open session met yesterday morning chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi.

Kamaleddin Shahriyari, Tangestan Deputy

The unparalleled and enthusiastic welcome by the people of Bushehr for His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i showed that the revolution is still continuing on its course.

The first pre-agenda speaker was Kamaleddin Shahriyari, from the Kangan, Dir, and Tangestan electoral district.

He discussed the exalted leader's trip last week to Bushehr Province. He said: If on 12 Bahman of the year 1357 [1 February 1979] the entire population of Tehran opened its arms to embrace their Imam, guide, and esteemed leader, who was returning from strange and faraway places to the Islamic homeland, on Wednesday 11 Day this year [1 January 1992] the entire province of Bushehr was circling, like a moth around a flame, around the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution, who had come to that province. The greatest event in the history of the province since the Islamic revolution took place on Wednesday, and an unparalleled crowd and a splendid welcome took place for the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution, who always protects the oppressed and the deprived.

He added: This wonderful event and this unprecedented welcome carried two messages. The first message is that if today we are deprived of the blessed being of the great Imam (may God be pleased with him), with the help of Almighty God, who always protects his religion, his orthodoxy and his Islamic and revolutionary government, and who enjoys the existence of the exalted and great leader who like the Imam has cast the shadow of his grandeur and nobility over this nation from the Imam's level, this nation benefits from the presence of the exalted leader in the absence of the great Imam (may God be pleased with him).

The second message of this great movement and this splendid event was that the entire nation of Iran and all the free people of the world must realize that with the passage of 13 years since the Islamic revolution of Iran, when all the foreign and domestic enemies did everything they could to damage the Islamic revolution, and when all the poison foreign propaganda tried to isolate this revolution, after 13 years all the imperialists and the foreign and domestic enemies have seen how this ever-present-on-the-scene nation, with the same fire, the same love and faith it had on the first day, participates in the events of this revolution. This nation has shown that this revolution, from the very day it took shape with the Imam's line, following the Imam's commands with unity of speech, has continued to move on year after year following the exalted leadership of the Islamic revolution, and this revolution will never be shaken by this torrent of events.

In conclusion, Shahriyari thanked the people of Bushehr Province for their participation in these splendid ceremonies and asked God to grant us success that we may always follow the Imam's line and the Islamic revolution, the vice-regency of the chief jurisconsult and the exalted leader.

Hoseyn Arbabifard, Ramian and Azadshahr Deputy

The hezbollah nation has the right to know who circulated the leaflets against the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The second pre-agenda speaker was Hoseyn Arbabifard, Ramian and Azadshahr deputy.

He discussed the recent trip by the exalted leader to Bushehr Province, and the unprecedented welcome afforded him by the people of this province. He said: What must be noted above all concerning these trips is the direct relationship between the deprived and barefoot people and their dear leader. Without any intermediaries, candidly and directly, they tell their troubles to their leader and talk about their problems.

The commander of the faithful (peace be upon him) referred precisely to this point in his historic letter to King Ashtar, saying, "O King, give some of your time to the needy, and at that time make yourself available to deal with their requests. Sit in the public forum so that the helpless and poor will have access to you, and don't let your guards and protectors interfere with them so they may speak with you without stammering, fear, or anxiety." It is hoped that the respected officials, the ministers, the governors-general, the general managers, and the chiefs of the administrative offices, following the exalted leader's example, will give an hour of their time to visit directly with our pure, Muslim revolutionary people, because according to our late Imam (peace be upon him), they are our vice-regents.

In the same connection, he thanked the minister of agriculture, who has allocated an hour of his time every morning from six to seven to visit with farmers.

Continuing, Arbabifard said: Some people, who until yesterday, seeking to prepare public opinion for the elections, were making unjust propaganda and chanting false slogans such as "relations with America are being established," "the capitalists are coming back," "the hezbollah are being forgotten," "the deprived and oppressed are becoming more oppressed" and the like in order to try to weaken the government of the heroic Hashemi, have now sensed that this propaganda has gotten them nowhere. They have therefore adopted the path of destruction, and, using the methods of the hypocrites, they have poured out the secrets of their hearts by circulating anti-government leaflets.

The judicial power must realize that the Muslim and hezbollah nation has the right to know that the ones who circulated the leaflets against the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran were influential elements from the Office to Strengthen and Restore Unity. Therefore, the requisite speed must be used in investigating this case and exposing the perpetrators, and the Muslim and revolutionary students must identify and drive from their midst these counterrevolutionary elements.

Elsewhere in his talk he said: Ever before debate begins in the Majles on the Budget Bill, a number of people, on the pretext of criticizing the Budget Bill, are already trying to sabotage the government's economic policies. The people must be vigilant and separate the concerned critics from the tendentious saboteurs.

He added: In view of the fact that several months remain before the elections, a number of candidates are taking advantage of their employment positions to campaign at the expense of the public treasury. I therefore ask the respected president of the republic to stop the abuses of people like this, and of some group and factional newspapers such as SALAM, which is using such government information and resources as the Strategic Intelligence Office against the government for campaign purposes.

The speaker added: Now as the pro-Islamic wave is growing every day in the Islamic nations, world imperialism led by the Great Satan has shown with its hasty positions its fear of the divine government and the vice-regency of the chief jurisconsult, and with its biased analyses, it regards as intolerable the election victory of the Muslim people of Algeria. World imperialism, which has filled the world's ears with its calls for democracy, is using all its resources to create an atmosphere of fear and terror to bring the Algerian army into confrontation with the people and prevent free elections. World imperialism must realize that the children of the very people make up the body of the Algerian army, and they will therefore not be fooled by the Great Satan.

Continuing, Arbabsfard said: More than any other countries, the former Soviet Muslim republics are setting their hopes on the Islamic Republic of Iran. Therefore, during this sensitive period, the government and Muslim nation of Iran must hasten to their aid with all its resources.

He noted: These days news agencies and experts in economic affairs are reporting the collapse of America's economy. America is therefore trying to save itself from this perilous situation by making oil cheap. More than anywhere else, the oil-rich nations of the Persian Gulf are objects of the Great Satan's greed. The Muslim people of these nations must not permit their capitulated leaders to pour their wealth into the pockets of the yankees.

The speaker thanked the president of the republic for appointing a women's affairs consultant, for defeating the enemy's plots and for thwarting the West's self-serving propaganda in this regard. He praised the minister of education and training and its officials in his electoral district for the steps they have taken to elevate cultural affairs in this municipality.

He added: One of the practical ways to export the Islamic revolution and to promote the culture of the Islamic revolution and its Islamic values is to train revolutionary and believing forces in the Islamic nations, and this important matter has been assigned to the Imam's International University.

Therefore, while complaining to the experts on the Majles Plan and Budget Commission, ask the respected Majles deputies, especially those on the Plan and Budget Commission, to give more attention to this university's budget.

Gowhar ol-Shari'eh Dastgheyb, Tehran Deputy

The media must serve the diffusion of Islamic culture in order to aid the further development of the Islamic revolution.

The third pre-agenda speaker was Gowhar ol-Shari'eh Dastgheyb, Tehran deputy.

She said: Greetings to the good souls of the martyrs and the open heart of His Holiness Ayatollah Khomeyni the Great, smasher of the idol of imperialism and despotism.

Greetings to the exalted leader, who, God willing, will continue on the Imam's blessed path.

She added: The Introduction to the Constitution says: "Since the aim of government is to foster the growth of man in such a way that he progresses toward the establishment of a divine order to create favorable conditions for the emergence and blossoming of man's innate capacities, the broad and active participation of all segments of society in the process of social development is necessary. The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran provides the basis for such participation by all members of society at all stages of the political decision-making process on which the destiny of the country depends, so that during the course of human development toward perfection, each individual will himself be involved in and responsible for growth, advancement, and leadership, and in precisely this will be found the realization of the government of the oppressed upon earth. Therefore, the Constitution guarantees the rejection of all forms of intellectual and social tyranny and economic monopoly. In this regard it assigns a heavy responsibility to the media, which must serve the diffusion of Islamic culture to aid the further development of the Islamic revolution. To this end, there is benefit in the healthy encounter of differing viewpoints, but the media must strictly refrain from the diffusion and propagation of destructive and anti-Islamic qualities."

With all regret, I must say that the policies prevailing in radio and television do not conform to the Constitution,

and even function in violation of it in some cases. It is hoped that they will think about reform and see the necessity for insisting on the primacy of Islamic culture. The predominance of one-dimensional thought and the failure to provide for a sound encounter of ideas gives rise to an atmosphere of flattery, sycophancy, and intellectual decline. It deprives the human being of spiritual support and undermines the nation's stability of opinion, determination, and will. Finally, it leads to cultural invasion and undermines public participation in political and social affairs, which actually constitute oppression of the Islamic revolution, the Imam, and the martyrs.

She added: My view is that cultural invasion happens when they remove those who are concerned and those who have suffered for the Islamic revolution from positions of management, and, using Satanic trickery and guile, put newcomers into positions of power and decision, then destroy the Islamic revolution overnight. Most important of all, reassignments in the Ministry of Education and Training and selection of other than the best people to teach and train society will have bad effects that will continue for years. In economic affairs, those concerned for the Islamic revolution must make effort and not permit conditions to become this difficult for the God-seeking, revolution-supporting nation, and the extravagance and flattery of the capitalists must be stopped.

She noted: The aware people of Iran are asking, in view of Paragraph Three Article Three, under which the government is required to provide free education and training and physical training to everyone at all levels and to employ all resources to facilitate and provide higher education, how is it that the deputy minister of education and training is threatening the people that if they do not give money to their children's schools, we will collect tuition next year?

The first question is, what is the difference between giving money and paying tuition? Second, in defending the Non-profit Schools Bill, wasn't it said that every year many wealthy people are turning to the monetary or non-profit schools and soon 50 percent or more of the government's burden will be removed, and consequently low-income people will be able to use government resources with peace of mind? Not only did this not occur, they sent the more experienced teachers to the aforementioned schools with more resources and created discord and factionalism among the teachers, when under the Constitution the government is required to eliminate improper discrimination and to provide just resources for everyone in all material and spiritual areas.

She added: Higher education is important because of the need to teach and train specialist, learned and skilled manpower, and to carry out scientific research that provides answers for society's problems. In today's developed world, intellectual minds are the most essential resources in the wealth of the advanced nations, not natural and underground resources. Therefore, the development of human resources is a priority need in planning for social, cultural, economic, and technological development and it guarantees its success. Under no circumstances, not even in times of economic constraints, must investment to procure and train manpower be eclipsed by economic adjustment and reform policies. It is altogether unfortunate that the prevailing view in the nation's budget planning has yet to pay attention to the crucial role of manpower in development, and the fundamental role of culture in society's evolution. They view the cultural and educational sectors as services which have an insignificant share compared to the other sectors. Thus, the current and development budget of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education and its affiliated universities and research centers in the three years 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990], 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] and 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992] was 1.9, 1.88, and 2.01 percent respectively of the total national budget, and its foreign exchange budget in the years 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] and 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992] was 0.5 percent and 0.38 percent respectively of the total national budget. Despite the apparent increase in the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education's budget in recent years, the student costs portion of the budget at the 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986] rates decreased from 41,000 tomans to 25,000 tomans in the year 1370. The proposed budget for the boards of trustees for the year 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] is 548 billion rials, meaning 1.9 percent of the nation's total budget, and the government's proposed budget is 262 billion rials, or 0.9 percent of the nation's total budget. The budget for higher education is 0.49 percent of the gross national product of Iran, while this figure is 2.5 percent in the advanced nations. In the same comparison, the number of scholars and researchers in our country is less than 100 per million, while in the advanced nations this figure is more than 2,500 per million. The foreign exchange received by the nation's industrial universities in the first two years of the Five-year Plan is at least $19 billion, which is about 700 times as much foreign exchange as was received by the universities and research centers affiliated with the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education and the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education.

In one contract between the Mobarakeh Steel Complex and Italy more than $300 million and by one account $400 million was provided to train technicians, and another contract was signed recently with Australia to train 250 people, which illustrates the complexity of this issue.

I propose that if Mr. Hashemi, the respected president of the republic, the Budget Commission, and the respected deputies believe that manpower training is this easy, they might as well give the rest of the trifling education budget to the respected Ministry of Industry and put the nation's mind at ease, and justice will truly be implemented, and God willing the good will be rightly guided.

Seyyed 'Ali 'Avazzadeh, Shirvan Deputy

The final pre-agenda speaker was Seyyed 'Ali 'Avazzadeh, Shirvan deputy. He discussed the Majles Internal Guidelines. He said: The lack of care in this issue on the part of the deputies has always caused trouble, and the Majles sensitivity on how to deal with the Budget Bill arises from precisely this, but unfortunately, because of the inadequacies of the Majles Internal Guidelines, the questions the deputies ask are never answered in the Majles.

He added: Should consideration of the Budget Bill really be left to just a few people? Are the people on the Plan and Budget Commission (some of whom where even chosen by lot) supposed to consider themselves the only guardians of the Majles, while none of the others have the right to express an opinion? The Plan and Budget Commission always considers itself above others, and these brothers mistakenly imagine that as soon as they get on the commission, they are learned men in the full sense of the word, but after these budget problems came up the deputies accepted the idea that all the commissions should have a say in the budget deliberations. It is not clear, however, on what basis the Plan and Budget Commission still continues with its mistaken and incorrect assumptions, and why it does not permit the other specialist commissions, in accordance with the Majles Internal Guidelines, to have their say.

On what basis does the Plan and Budget Commission consider only two notes from the entire Budget Bill relevant to the Administrative and Employment Affairs Commission? On what basis do these brothers set aside only 1.5 hours for the Administrative and Employment Affairs Commission, of which the first half hour is a joint session?

He added: On what basis are they unwilling to take into account the comments of the specialist commission in connection with the Uniform Payments Bill, and why are they ignoring them? Of course, if the Plan and Budget Organization were to ignore the staff employee class, or if a Central Bank official said something, in this case there might be a way to justify it, for certainly those dear ones are willing to sacrifice more than two million working and retired staff employees to prevent their economic theory from being spoiled, but why you?

Weren't the members of the Plan and Budget Commission elected by the people? Don't the staff employees and retirees in your electoral districts tell you about their problems? Who should implement the nation's budget, according to those who want it implemented properly? Do the members of the respected Plan and Budget Commission and the officials of the Plan and Budget Organization expect the staff employees to live on air while implementing the budget for you? My esteemed brothers, don't you realize the extent of the problems created by inflation for the deprived class of wage-earning workers?

In the same regard, the Shirvan deputy asked the Speaker's Council and the Majles deputies not to decide too quickly in their deliberations on the Budget Bill, so that the specialist commissions will also be able to have their say.

Elsewhere in his talk, Avazzadeh said: According to your own legislation in Note 22 in the First Five-year Economic, Social, and Cultural Development Plan, doesn't it say that officials must take practical steps to achieve a balance between the wages and benefits of workers and inflation and price increases? In your view, is there any way to take effective steps now other than through appropriate wage increases?

Seyyed 'Ali Avazzadeh spoke to the Majles deputies about the work of the Manpower Statistics and Planning Office of the Administrative and Employment Affairs Organization. He said: Based on existing information, during the years 1357 [21 March 1978-20 March 1979] to 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991], the price of consumer goods went up 637.5 percent, while the wages and benefits of workers increased only 241 percent, and this has significantly decreased worker purchasing power.

The average wages and benefits for government workers (in the sector covered by the National Employment Law), which was 37,662 rials in 1358, would be about 24,547 rials [sic] (2.7 times the existing figure) if it had increased in view of the indicator for the price of consumer goods and services.

The minimum wage for government workers, which was 25,000 rials in 1358, in 1369 should have increased to about 162,944 rials in view of the indicator for the price of consumer goods and services, or in other words 2.9 times the minimum wage for workers in 1369 [sic].

A study of the increases in minimum retirement and employment wages shows that in the above years this amount has shown only the smallest increases, and if the purchasing power of this class in society in the year 1358 is taken as the base rate, then this minimum would have to increase to 11,733 rials, or 3.26 times the current amount.

He added: Based on studies that have been done, the minimum expenses of an urban two-person family in 1369 is estimated to average 152,627 rials, and if we say that workers with less than this amount of income are poor, we will conclude that more than 90 percent of government workers are living below the poverty line, and in general it can be said that if we want to take steps to stabilize the purchasing power of workers based on the base rates in 1358 on the basis of Note 22 in the First Five-year Economic, Social, and Cultural Development Plan, then we must increase wages and benefits of workers in 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] to 6.5 times the wages and benefits of 1358.

Continuing, he said: In view of these realities and based on the Uniform Payments Law, which must be fully

implemented as of the beginning of 1371 [21 March 1992], the Administrative and Employment Affairs Commission has promised to implement it repeatedly to the respected officials and toiling employees and through the media, and at that it is not promising full implementation of the law, but at least implementation of the Uniform Payments Law, with average payments of 13,000 tomans per month for staff employees, which is still only 50 percent of the real payment amount. The figure of 20 billion tomans has been proposed to the Plan and Budget Commission in Note 14, which was unfortunately given to the members of the Plan and Budget Commission unkindly and without enthusiasm. The members of the Administrative and Employment Affairs Commission were forced to leave the Plan and Budget Commission because of the failure to carefully implement the Majles Internal Guidelines, but what is important in this regard is that the proper implementation of the budget certainly needs honest and industrious workers, and if we see that the great class of staff employees, with all the losses, is working and protecting Islam and the Islamic revolution, we must realize that certainly with lack of concern for these dear ones, not only will the work of implementing the budget not be done, but, God forbid, with their own hands we will be driven in a direction where reconstruction will not be so easily made practical.

The Shirvan deputy discussed the coming Majles elections. He said: The question of what group will run the Majles in the future is something that cannot be discussed by itself and based on the claims of individuals, but a very valuable experience has been gained from the clash of factions during the Islamic revolution, for with all the hard-line rhetoric, slow progress, and purges that have been caused by one group claiming to be the majority, it has been confirmed that no group by itself is capable of managing the country, and none of the economic theories so far put forward and implemented has been able to establish its perfection and superiority, and the reason is also clear, because when in the context of the existing social realities the interests and affiliations of a group become clear, and when society's existing realities are ignored and when groups are constantly becoming separated from society, this is our basis for believing that in the next Majles the Muslim people of Iran will lean towards representatives who are more independent from the groups, and statistics also show this. Although in the First Majles we could see few people who spoke of independence, in the Second Majles the people voted for a number of deputies who had no factional affiliation, and this caused the Second Majles to form with a few independent deputies. In view of the record of the factions, it is clear that just as there were significantly more independent deputies in the Third Majles, this number will also increase in the Fourth Majles, and God willing the hezbollah nation will elect deputies who will vote more independently, because a realistic perspective and independence in voting are among the most important tools for achieving stability and constructiveness in society. The exalted leader's advice to the existing factions to avoid factionalism and maintain equilibrium was clearly in relation to this matter, and therefore we hope that the next Majles will be one whose deputies will vote significantly.

At the conclusion of his remarks, the Shirvan deputy discussed the fact that one of the best issues of the 20th century in the area of social affairs is the issue of democracy. He said: Democracy is a social phenomenon, and with its growth one may hope that to some extent in the future the physical harshness in political struggles will change to non-physical harshness. Of course, one may not be greatly optimistic that a non-violent political atmosphere in the arena of struggle will bring humanity the gift of complete freedom, because with the appearance of the monster of propaganda with today's very modern tools, they are pushing public opinion in a direction whose effects are no less than that of a military attack, and the onslaught which has begun from the West against the Islamic victory in Algeria is causing the same thing to happen there that happened in another way to the Shi'ites in Iraq, and although each defense against an attack requires its own special methods, but reliance and unstinting support for the principle of leadership in Islam is a tested principle, which has been used well in the Islamic revolution of Iran, and it is hoped that the awake and Muslim people of Algeria wil make the best use of it.

Majles Notes

Yesterday, during consideration of the motion to amend articles from the Election Law, several deputies including Mr. Bayat, Mr. Rahchamani and others, proposed that the selection and determination of competence of the 30 reputable persons mentioned in Article 34 (from among whom the Executive Election Council will be chosen) should be the responsibility of the district governor or the governor, and there is no need to confirm the Council of Guardians Supervisory Council.

In arguing for the above proposal, Mr. Rahchamani said that since in some cases there will be differences of opinion between the district governor, the governor, and the Supervisory Council in validating the confidence of the reputable persons and this could lead to a deadlock, this following proposal was made as a way to break the deadlock.

In opposition to the above proposal, Mr. Movvahedi-Savoji, Saveh deputy, said: You would think that some of the respected deputies are not happy with the fact that the Constitution has designated the supervising authority for the elections, and they want only the government, and that means the Ministry of the Interior, to conduct the entire election without any supervison taking place in these elections. Look dear brothers, you may feel now that there are good relations between some of the deputies and a number of people who are working in the Ministry of the Interior. The Ministry of the Interior is not connected to any process or faction, and it must not be, and the exalted leader and the president of

the republic have forbidden them with clear emphasis from taking any kind of position in favor of any political current or special group of people, and they are prohibited from doing so under both secular and religious law.

He then said: The meaning of the proposal the gentlemen are making to limit the supervision of the Council of Guardians is that we are to gradually limit the scope of the supervision which is now in the Constitution. They want to install an impotent and ineffective supervision without any role or advantage in the elections. In conclusion, Movvahedi-Savoji emphasized: This is a drive which is in violation of the Constitution, and the above proposal was put to a vote in violation of the Constitution, and was approved.

In the course of approving the above proposal, several points worth reading about took place:

(1) The vote was taken in the usual way with standing and sitting, and there was a scandalous coalition among the Majles consulting deputies counting the number opposed to and supporting the proposal. Deputies Asgharzadeh and Montajabniya said there were 94 supporting votes and Mr. Razavi said there were 91, While Mr. Shahrzad said there were only 70 supporting votes! (In view of the rule approved by the Speaker's Council, the proposal was considered approved in accordance with the majority view among the aides).

(2) In accordance with the Majles Internal Guidelines, more than 25 deputies requested a vote by paper ballot. After the vote, the Majles speaker announced that the proposal was approved with 109 votes in favor, 91 votes opposed, and two abstentions.

(3) As usual, repeatedly yesterday the Majles faced problems and delays in the voting because it lacked a quorum of 180 deputies, so that Mr. Karrubi said: When our society sees the Majles in this kind of state, can we advise the people to live according to order and discipline?

(4) Calls for assistance in the Majles at voting time on some proposals, especially when the vote was to be by ballot, is something to see! For example, when voting was done by standing and sitting on the above proposal, after several minutes of delay the number of deputies reached the quorum of 180 with difficulty, and only less than ten minutes later when the vote was taken by paper ballot, the number of ballots dropped in the ballot box was 202! And then the whole thing started all over again, meaning that more than 170 deputies were held up waiting for a few people.

Ratifications

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's public Majles session was continued consideration of the proposal to amend articles 15, 31, 32, 33, 69, and 75 of the Majles Election Law, and to append an article to it, and its provisions were approved:

Appended article: In accordance with this law, the following note is appended to Article 33 of the Majles Election Law, and any laws and regulations at variance with it are null and void.

Supplementary Note: The selection and determination of competence of the 30 reputable persons mentioned in Article 34 of the Majles Election Law, as well as their invitation to select the members of the executive council of the appropriate electoral district, will be the responsibility of the governor or the central district governor of the electoral district.

Likewise, the following three notes are appended to Article 69 of the Majles Election Law:

Note One—The nullification of the elections in any electoral district must be supported by law and accompanied by credible evidence and documentation.

Note Two—The nullification of the elections in any electoral district must be approved by three-quarters of the members of the respected Council of Guardians.

Note Three—During its investigation of a case in an electoral district, the Ministry of the Interior, the chiefs of the executive councils, and the supervisory councils in the pertinent districts may attend the meetings of the Council of Guardians with the right to express opinions and without the right to vote.

At this session, the request for double-urgency status for the Bill setting the extent of the effect of national divisions on the boundaries of electoral districts was approved.

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[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Division—The Majles met in open session yesterday morning chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi.

At this session, Mr. Karrubi gave a short pre-agenda speech offering congratulations on the joyous birth anniversary of the fifth bright star in the constellation of vice-regents and imams, Emam Mohammad Baqer (peace be upon him). He expressed the hope that in the shadow of obedience to the commands of the chaste imams (peace be upon them) we will be able to realize the aspirations of the Islamic revolution.

Yusef Basanjideh, Kordkuy Deputy

The need to create a new Islamic order requires reliance on the unfailing divine power and the potential resources of Muslims.

The first pre-agenda speaker was Yusef Basanjideh, Kordkuy and Bandar Torkoman deputy.

He said: When the Eastern world is destroyed and Western imperialism is at a dead end, the need to create a new Islamic order requires reliance on the unfailing

divine power and the potential resources of Islamic forces and the billions in Muslim assets.

He added: Following the overthrow of the Eastern Bloc and the former Soviet Union, after 70 years, the people in that part of the world threw off their chains, and therefore we take as a sign of good fortune the birth of the Muslim countries at the nation's northern borders. Even now our missions have become heavier and we must try harder to present our Islamic models, the consequences of the Islamic revolution and our experiences, because even now the people in that part of the world are seeking to regain what they have lost, this very genuine Islamic culture. We must respond affirmatively to their welcome and optimism with Islamic kindness and cultural, political, and economic investment, otherwise other countries will invest vigorously and weaken confidence in us among the people there.

Continuing his remarks, the Kordkuy and Bandar Torkoman deputy discussed the recent ocean flooding which damaged a number of villages in this area. He said: As the result of this incident, concrete and earthen dams collapsed in the first few minutes and all the assets and possessions of the Muslim, toiling people in the area were destroyed, and they were left wandering and without shelter in the winter cold.

He discussed losses to the homes of the people, coastal installations such as fisheries, radio and television stations, docks, rural farms, and fishing grounds in this area. He asked the president of the republic to take steps to provide for primary needs such as fuel, food, housing for local people, sending [unintelligible word] and damage payments to people who have suffered losses.

He emphasized that the losses and conseqences of the flooding of the sea of Mazandaran are no less than those of the earthquake of Gilan and Zanjan. He said: Serious attention and investigation must be given to the need for prevention and for greater speed carrying out preservation projects.

Continuing, the speaker discussed the history of fishing and fisheries in Bandar Torkoman, and the history of bravery and self-sacrifice on the part of fishermen in the area to guard maritime resources. He added: Even now the people endure the unbearable hardships of the raging sea as they go to meet danger and procure the various kinds of fish needed by the region and the country.

In conclusion, he emphasized: Because of the sensitivity and importance of fishing in the area, the vast amount of work and the production of fish of the sturgeon family and caviar for export, it is most vital and necessary to create independent administrative installations in the area.

Abutaleb Habibi, Qa'emshahr Deputy

The people will assuredly send people to the Majles who follow the Imam's line, the vice-regency of the chief jurisconsult, and the leadership of the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution.

Abutaleb Habibi, Qa'emshahr and Savadkuh deputy, was the second pre-agenda speaker.

He discussed the elections for the Fourth Majles. He said: Just as the late great Imam of the Islamic revolution said, the Majles is at the head of affairs, and the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution said that the Majles has a vast position, election insiders must make abundant efforts to protect the sacred government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and they must provide open elections for qualified candidates and the public. God forbid that the people should get the feeling that election insiders are operating in a one-dimensional way so that those they desire will find their way into the Majles. Here and there and in some circles and meetings, some prominent people are heard saying "the Majles must be in the hands of one group," or "the people must be made to understand that they must elect individuals from one group and send them to the Majles". In my humble opinion, this is a mistake, because first of all the Majles is a lawmaking and political center, which naturally must select the proper and correct path for the government's growth through the expression of views both for and against. In addition, if you look at the parliaments of the world, you will see that different parties occupy the seats in parliament, and they arrive ultimately at a consensus through study, discussion, and the expression of views.

Secondly, 13 years after the triumph of the Islamic revolution and the identification of the deceitful figures of the mini-groups affiliated with East and West and the imperialists such as the hypocrites, the Feda'iyan, the nationalists, and the liberals, they have sent and assuredly will send people to the Majles who follow the line of the late Imam (peace be upon him), the vice-regency of the chief jurisconsult, and the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution.

He added: Today our people have no need of a guardian, because any time they feel that the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is the fruit of the sacred blood of thousands of martyrs and self-sacrificing exalted families of the marties, the combat soldiers, the former prisoners of war, and those who sacrificed and are or will be endangered, they will stand alertly in defense of the sanctuary of the imamate and vice-regency of the chief jurisconsult. I hope they will leave the people alone and that they will create an atmosphere and election conditions appropriate for the Islamic government and its values so that we will see extensive participation by the hezbollah nation in the elections, and that we will avoid, God forbid, narrow-mindedness and concern for personal, group, and political interests.

Continuing, Habibi said: Our officials and executive, judicial and legislative insiders must not ignore the influence of Western culture in the sacred society of the Islamic system, because in the current situation today, what torments the exalted families of the martyrs, the veterans, the people who have sacrificed and the former prisoners of war, and God forbid, what might undermine that spirit of sacrifice and mobilization in these dear

ones, is the unbridled propagation and unleashing of Western culture. The sin of failure to confront seriously social and cultural corruption must not be attributed to this one or that one. The Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic can play a very positive role in this regard, rather than itself being in a way the agent and instigator of corruption and fornication, which unfortunately has been seen in some instances. God forbid that one day the hezbollah nation should rebel against this existing situation, and God forbid that at a time when officials are not thinking about a solution the people should set out to find a solution. I hope that our officials will think about a solution by expediting preventive measures and taking approaches worthy of the Islamic government, so that our hezbollah forces will no longer be faced with this kind of practical mockery of the sacred symbols of the Islamic revolution and the government.

Elsewhere in his talk, he said: While I affirm and regard as positive the implementation of the economic planning of those in the government, especially the implementation of the government's correct and codified economic, social, and cultural development plan and its continuing growth, I must say of the economic situation that society's low-income and middle class people such as the workers, laborers, oppressed staff employees, and concerned and suffering farmers must not be ignored, because they were the very ones who were the sole supporters of the government of the vice-regency of the chief jurisconsult, and on the battlefields of the imposed war and behind the lines they helped and will help the government and its insiders. It was not the comfortably well-off and the hoarders of society, for on that day when indirect and direct danger faced the Islamic revolution they were not thinking of preserving the Islamic revolution and the government, and they are not thinking of it today. These people are waiting for a chance to get material gain, and our officials must not be deceived by the analyses of these people—and they certainly are not—and abandon the oppressed. When and where did these people who speak of supporting the government ever show sincerity, either now or under the former government? If they are telling the truth, I propose that to show their good will the well-off people and their supporters should announce to Hashemi's government that now that 12 years of heavy inflation has bent the backs of low-income people and we have been unable to serve the deprived and oppressed of society, they will give at least six months' worth of the goods needed by society at the cost of producing it to the consumer, instead of raising prices tomorrow, with calculated and it must be said political collaboration, the moment mention is made of salary increases at the Council of Ministers or in the Majles for the purpose of alleviating the economic problems of society's low-income people thereby taking this bit of purchasing power away from the purchasing power of low-income people.

He added: We all know that, throughout the Islamic revolution, one of the living testaments to the sacrifice and loyalty of the Muslim nation of Iran against the plots of the East and the West is our dear combat veterans. The Foundation for the Oppressed and the Self-Sacrificing Devotees and the government must give more attention than this to the affairs of war veterans, and this was always emphasized by our late Imam (peace be upon him) and will always be emphasized by the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution (may his life be long). It must not be that instead of attending to its main responsibility, which is dealing with the material needs and medical treatment affairs of war veterans, the Foundation for the Oppressed and the Self-Sacrificing Devotees goes after foreign contracts and seeks to procure ceremonial implements, which does nothing for the society of war veterans and oppressed people, and let it not be that with one gesture it is announced by the Foundation for the Oppressed and the Self-Sacrificing Devotees that a contract to build Mercedes Benzes is being signed by that foundation between Iran and Germany, with them trying to move and plan in the direction of that goal. They must realize that the Foundation for the Oppressed and the Self-Sacrificing Devotees was founded by proclamation of the late Imam (peace be upon him).

Mohammad-Baqer Nowbakht, Rasht Deputy

The final pre-agenda speaker was Mohammad-Baqer Nowbakht, the Rasht deputy.

He said: The cultural and preliminary attacks world imperialism has prepared after the failure of its military clashes have been clear for some time before the exacting and profound vision of the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution, and His Holiness has warned about such a devastating danger. As usual, some people have made this the subject of their passing discussions, and almost without a proper summation and identification of a point for beginning a proper defense, they merely repeated these words, and it is worrisome that the same thing happened to this talk that happened at least to the eight-article proclamation of His Holiness the Imam (peace be upon him), which was forgotten after an uproar and a few arrests, without effective and extensive implementation, and we saw what happened as we paved the way for revitalization of the dead mini-groups, which is another subject.

He added: With all the disagreements that could arise on the meaning and evidence for the cultural invasion, there is at least agreement that our youth are exposed to it, but what should be done? Can it be called a defensive measure for example to shout the slogan "videos are agents of corruption and fornication," or ban videos, which are in most homes? Don't the young people laugh at this kind of thinking and think of it as rigid? They know videos are a medium, like radios, televisions, and tape recorders, except this is a more advanced technology which is also used as a teaching aid in academic institutions, and the learned men even record lessons in ethics for their students and distribute them. It is therefore wrong to call videos agents of corruption and fornication, but that anxiety that a number concerned

people of good will express in this unacceptable way is significant. The solution, however, is not to make curious young people even more eager to see videos with remarks like this and make them even more suspicious about our conceptual horizons. I say clearly that today young people have reasonable and religiously lawful needs which cannot be well satiated and satisfied. This shortage pulls young people in every direction, encouraging them to look at every event in sight, and in view of its abundance and extent, this is something that cannot be controlled. No police method is a proper solution. If we want young people not to go to the homes of others and to learn bad things from abroad, we must have what they want in our own house and offer direction with insight. Young people need sports, art, sound entertainment, study, and a future. Instead of stating regrets and lamenting that the youth are slipping away, as soon as possible we must provide the means to meet these needs so that young people, wherever they are, will return to them, of course, if it is not too late. We must therefore get ahead of the times, or move with it, for this flood is passing us by.

He added: As a teacher who is growing old with youth, even if it is getting late, I have two proposals which can serve as a starting point, and we must act upon them.

1. Ten percent of the defense affairs credits in Table Six of the Five-year Budget Law should be divided every year and invested specifically for cultural defense to meet the needs of young people and to build sound educational and entertainment channels, gyms, to procure suitable films with priority planning under the supervision of a council composed of officials in education and training, physical training, higher education, and the Propaganda Organization, and let us be assured that it will be more effective than artillery and tanks, which are also necessary in their place for the government.

2. All sites used for education, training, sports, and arts which were given to other organizations due to the necessities and priorities of the war should be evacuated as soon as possible, at least to implement Note 12 of the Budget Law, and the brothers should realize that to protect the gains made by martyred comrades-in-arms and to protect the survivors of martyrs this is a high priority, even though we need bases to keep pace with the expansion of military organizations. If it was necessary yesterday to make bases out of the schools and educational centers, today, in view of the kind of assault and invasion we are facing, it is necessary to make suitable schools and suitably supervised entertainment for young people out of the bases.

If we want our young people to congregate in homes in front of videos out of our sight and watch films like that, at least the homes of young people ought to be cleared and using these same defense funds, suitable films should be produced, the young people should be gathered together, gyms should be built, they should be be brought together and there should be reasonable programs, which cannot be proposed here, and meanwhile it is most important to consider the condition of the teachers who have 15 million young people in their charge.

In the same regard, he said: It must be realized that it is insupportable to expect an esteemed teacher who is aggrieved by economic behavior to give sufficient attention to our students.

Elsewhere in his talk, Nowbakht discussed the formation of the new Ministry of Cooperatives. He said: Under sensitive and fluctuating conditions, the disruption of world conditions, the failure of the economic doctrine of communism and the corrupt collusion of capitalism, and with the prominent place of the Islamic revolution, all of this requires that we demand the manifestation of an Islamic economy. A cooperative sector with evolving Islamic antecedents must be created in our economic system. People must stop thinking of freeing the economy and making it non-government through the cooperative sector as a case of copying the model of the capitalist economic system of the West. Certainly, if the promise of our 13 years of Islamic economy can be made anywhere, it is right here, and actually, the mission of policy-makers in this matter is so important, and the tasks of the respected Ministry of Cooperatives are difficult and fateful.

The Rasht deputy added: Unfortunately, the National Cooperatives Taxation Law, on the basis of which within three years taxes of at least 250 billion rials were supposed to have been collected for rebuilding the country in one-time levies on the total non-productive assets of legal persons at a rate set in Article Two of that law, has not done well, and so far, with exactly 60 days remaining until the end of its period of implementation, it has had only about a 10 percent useful success rate. In a study, I reported on the reasons for its lack of success, which include the lack of comprehensiveness and deficiencies in the law, insufficient suitable primary resources in the executive organizations, the lack of a tax-paying culture, and an atmosphere of no confidence among some taxpayers concerning the procurement of the rest of their capital and assets, and I included a proposal on how to amend and resolve the defects in this law and the appropriateness of this tax because it is direct and just, and the responsibility that emerged in the executive organizations responsible for implementing it. Now that all the negative aspects of this law have also been put behind us, I believe that this law should be extended for at least one more five-year cycle, for those taxpayers who have not yet paid their taxes.

He criticized the lack of appropriate credit allocations in next year's budget, as needed to compensate for the unexpected losses, and continuing he asked that a special line be added to Note Six to reinforce the shoreline through expert study and planning.

Ratifications

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's public Majles session was the double-urgency bill setting the extent of the effect of national divisions on the boundaries of electoral districts. The general form of the bill was approved by the deputies and then the Majles began considering its details. Then Article One and its note were approved.

Article One—The Ministry of the Interior is required, without making geographical changes in the borders of the electoral districts except within the framework of the provisions of the note below, to implement the law designating electoral districts enacted by the Majles on 1/30/1366 [19 April 1987] and to make other changes in the borders of the Majles electoral districts which have come about based on the National Divisions Regulations and Rule Law.

Note—The Amidiyeh District is located in the electoral districts of Bandar Mahshahr; the central electoral district is Barkhar, and Mimeh is the center of the affiliated municipality.

The second item on the agenda was continued consideration of the motion to amend the Majles Election Law, whose consideration was completed.

Based on the Majles legislation, individuals and officials added to the paragraphs in Article 31 are required, in the national elections for the Fourth Majles only, to resign from their positions at least one month before the registration date.

The following words are added to the end of Paragraph Seven Article One of the 2/11/1366 [1 May 1987] ratification:

"The presence of representatives of each candidate is without prohibition until the end of the vote-taking, the counting of votes, and the writing of the minutes. Representatives of the candidates are prohibited from going to the polling places and this is regarded as a crime. The violator will be punished by the penalties provided in Article 77 of the law."

Under the final article approved by the Majles, the Ministry of the Interior is required to draw up guidelines for implementing this law within 15 months of its passage and submit it to the Council of Ministers for approval.

Note—This law must be implemented as of the day of its passage.

Likewise, yesterday the double-urgency status motion to amend the Majles Election Law to make educational qualifications a criterion for being a Majles deputy was presented, and its double-urgency status was not approved and was rejected.

At the same time, the question was read from Tuysarkan deputy Nader Kavusi to the petroleum minister concerning the reason for the failure to put into operation the oil storage facility at Tuysarkan at the appointed time and the lack of concern for delivering fuel to Hamadan Province. Arrival was also announced of the motion to explain Article 35 of the Mines Law, Article 19 of the Money and Banking Law, Article Five of the National Aircraft Law, Article 16 of the Charter of the Iran National Steel Company, Article Five of the bill to amend some articles of the charter of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and similar items.

In accordance with the Majles Internal Guidelines, before going into the agenda, the speaker of the Majles reads memos from the deputies to the nation's executive officials.

One of the memos read yesterday is the following:

A memo from Mr. Qazizadeh Hashemi, the Sarkhas and Fariman deputy, to the minister of culture and Islamic guidance and the minister of intelligence, concerning investigation of the working methods of RESALAT newspaper's correpondent in the Majles.

In his pre-agenda speech dated 8/19/1370 [11 November 1991], Mr. Qazizadeh Hashemi devoted most of his speech precisely to the articles printed in the newspaper SALAM dated 8/12/1379 [4 November 1991], and this matter received attention from RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent.

Apparently our correspondent's big crime was "disclosing the above secrets!" and also disclosing them in the column "Majles Notes"!

Mr. Karim Shafe'i, Marand deputy, issued a guidelines memo at Sunday's public Majles session (10/15/70 [5 January 1992]) asking the Majles Speaker's Council to investigate and study the work of the Tehran Mayor's Office.

Mr. Shafe'i was only minutes into his speech when Mr. Bayat, who was presiding at the session, ordered his microphone turned off.

Mr. 'Amid Zanjani, Tehran deputy, protested the method of operation of the Speaker's Council. In answer, Mr. Bayat addressed Mr. 'Amid Zanjani. He said: You must observe piety.

As the session continued, an aide on the Speaker's Council said that not permitting Mr. Shafe'i to read a guidelines memo and cutting him off is a violation of neutrality. Following these remarks, Mr. Bayat permitted Mr. Shafe'i to speak.

Mr. Shafe'i said: What you have done (announcing to the commission that the period of investigation and study was over) is a violation of the Majles Internal Guidelines, because study, research, and reporting, like motions and bills, are single-urgency and we have many single-urgency motions and bills which have been in

commission more than a year, but they have not been treated in that way. This way of dealing with the investigation into the work of the Mayor of Tehran is incorrect, contrary to procedure and illegal, and in it unsound dealings have been observed.

Then Mr. Bayat made some comments: Henceforth, regardless of whether it is you or someone else, the Majles Internal Guidelines must be implemented, and henceforth Mr. 'Amid and those like Mr. 'Amid must not permit themselves to rise in violation of the guidelines and say that the Speaker's Council has obstructed the work. I acted precisely in accordance with the guidelines.

Yesterday, our correspondent spoke with Mr. Shafe'i to investigate the details of this issue. He said: In the year 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] the request to research and investigate the work of the Tehran Mayor's Office was approved in the Majles and the matter was referred to the Majles Councils and Domestic Affairs Commission for investigation and research.

Consequently, the commission's studies were written into a 40-page report and placed on the commission's agenda for final approval. Recently, however, Mr. Bayat, the Majles speaker, in a letter addressed to the commission, announced that the period allowed for research and investigation had expired.

Mr. Shafe'i said: At last Sunday's Majles session, Mr. Bayat said some things that contradict remarks he made several months ago.

At public session 359 dated 2/8/1370 [28 April 1991], at which Mr. Bayat was speaker, I gave a memo that the Mayor of Tehran, on the pretext that the legal period for research and investigation had expired, refused to answer questions. At that session Mr. Bayat said:

The Mayor of Tehran takes the view that after three months applicants no longer have the right to investigate him. We discussed this issue in the administration of laws. We are now preparing a document in which we will respond to this issue. Mr. Shafe'i's memo is appropriate and this is a rightful issue for deputies and for those who do research and investigation. Therefore, an official and an organization concerning whom an investigation has been requested has no right to come and say that the time is up, you have no right to do your investigation. No, we have procedures, and your memo (Mr. Shafe'i) is appropriate.

Yesterday, however, Mr. Bayat contradicted his former stated view: We wrote to everyone, gentlemen pay careful attention, the Majles Internal Guidelines state that there is one month allowed for investigation, and if not completed you can extend it another month, but not until judgement day.

The Majles also held an unofficial, closed session yesterday. Apparently the failure to complete the study of the Budget Bill in the appropriate commission was the reason for holding the session. The Budget Bill was previously scheduled for presentation at the Majles public session today 10/18/1370 [8 January 1992]. According to law, the Budget Bill must be presented in final form to the Majles and the Council of Guardians no later than 11/12/1370 [1 February 1992].

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[Text] Report on Yesterday's Open Session of the Majles

Legislative and Parliamentary Division. The open session of the Majles was held yesterday morning with Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi presiding.

Mohammad 'Ali Qoreyshi, Khomeyn Deputy

The first pre-agenda speaker was Seyyed Mohammad 'Ali Qoreyshi, from Khomeyn.

Complaining about the lack of attention by the Ministry of Roads and Transportation and the related officials of Arak Province in regard to the roads of Khomeyn, he referred to the existing problem concerning the bridge between Khomeyn and Mahallat and said: Despite the instructions of the minister in regard to allocating 2 million tomans to correct the problems with the above-mentioned bridge, the director general spent the funds allocated for this purpose on purchasing an asphalt factory.

Is it not a weakness in the minister when his director general does not obey his instructions?

Continuing, he addressed the deputies, saying: I ask you dear people for help. I request unequivocally that this minister be impeached. Let us dismiss him and replace him with a strong minister who will attend to the condition of our roads.

'Ali Mohammad Baba-Khas, Paveh Deputy

'Ali Mohammad Baba-Khas, the deputy from Orumanat, Paveh, and Javanrud, spoke as the second pre-agenda speaker. Referring to the victory of the Islamic Liberation Front of Algeria in the parliamentary elections of that country, he said: This victory is another chapter in attaining God's promise and the mission of the Prophet. Global heathenism was caught by surprise, such that its positions and statements are for the most part like delirium and nonsense. In regard to the problems of his constituency, he requested that the minister of interior investigate and eliminate the problems in the region and said: The refugees and the villagers in the border region who have endured years of being separated from their hearth and home in compliance with the interests of the regime and in fighting the enemy, after their belief in religious duties, nurture in their minds the hopes of building that part of our Islamic homeland and revitalizing and bringing joy to the destroyed orchards and mourning mountains, those whose sense of honor prevents them from sitting in the city squares idly to

receive a minimal living allowance while the trees and pastures in the region are left unused, waiting for their hard-working hands.

He added: Brothers, the war has ended. But the mini-groups in the Majles still have the same power to underhandedly rob various parts of the country, like these other mercenaries.

What is the reason for not reconstructing the border villages and evacuating the region a few kilometers from the border, given the existence of combatants who stood up against the greatest war and people who did not cause any problem but supported the combatants and most of whom themselves joined the line of the combatants, as their number of martyrs indicate? What is the reason for taking these people away from the border? Do they threaten the security of the region?

The Paveh and Orumanat deputy said: Therefore, take steps optimistically to reconstruct the border villages and return the refugees.

Criticizing the discrimination imposed by a number of officials in regard to the cities bordering Iraq, he asked the minister of interior and the political and military officials of the region to investigate the matter and prevent its negative aspects.

The speaker also requested of the officials of the Guard Corps to pay more attention to the mobilized forces who protected the region during the years of the sacred defense and who have now joined the ranks of the unemployed and said: This is an exceptional case, which must be resolved. The files of a number of the self-sacrificing combatants were transferred to the foundation for the self-sacrificing devotees because they received pay from that foundation. Now, the foundation has reduced the percentage of their self-sacrifice pay, phase by phase, such that in the future their pay will completely cease and reach zero, and in old age they will have no ability to start a new job, even if one exists.

Baba-Khas requested that the grand leader investigate the numerous problems regarding the living conditions of the clerics in the region and said: We hope he will evaluate and compare the scholarly degrees of the Sunni clerics by the standards of the scholarly degrees of today and take a fatherly step in this regard.

Also, asking the minister of education to arrange for the clerics in the region to teach religious courses in the region, he said: The cities of Orumanat, Paveh, and Javanrud are comprised of six districts which are identified as oppressed. But so far, most of the government employees and teachers have been unable to take advantage of the benefits for the oppressed areas.

In regard to building athletic centers and providing athletic equipment, the Paveh deputy asked Dr. Ghafurifard, the vice president and head of the physical education organization, for an investigation.

In conclusion, he emphasized expediting the building of the Javanrud hospital and eliminating the education-related shortages by the officials.

Hasan Aminlu, Shabestar Deputy

The third pre-agenda speaker was Hasan Aminlu, from Shabestar.

He said; May God make the soul of the Imam of the people happy, he who founded the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this country. The greatest support for this regime is that the masses of people are Muslims who declared their loyalty in the imposed war, in the marches, in the enthusiastic welcoming ceremonies for the honorable officials in their visits to the provinces, through their united participation in the elections, and in all other cases with their presence on the scene. They showed that this is the greatest value of our divine regime, which can rarely be found in other regimes, and this value must be preserved forever.

He added: The attitude of the officials and administrators toward the people plays an important role in preserving this value. Fortunately, most of our officials and administrators treat their clients in an Islamic manner and respond positively to their legitimate and religious demands. They try to perform their official duties rapidly and in the best possible manner. But, unfortunately, a small number of the honorable administrators and directors of departments are indifferent to the problems of the people and are negligent in performing their legal duties. This will cause despair in the people. The behavior of these gentlemen toward the deputies is similar. Sometimes when the people have a problem to report, no contact can be made after several visits or telephone calls. Every time, the excuse is made that they are in a meeting or a committee, or some other excuse designed to avoid meeting with the deputies. They even refuse to answer the deputies' letters. There have been cases when a letter to Mr. Hashemi, the honorable president, despite his busy schedule, was answered personally in two days, and he referred the matter to a ministry. But after months of follow up, no response has been obtained from the honorable ministry. I ask Mr. Hashemi to issue the necessary reminders to the honorable ministers and officials of the Cabinet in this connection.

The Shabestar deputy continued: The severe shortcomings and lack of coordination existing with regard to emergency medical services causes anxiety and distrust in the society. How will emergency services be given if someone is in an accident or suffers illness some day?

An accident occurred some time ago involving one of the honorable officials—may God rest his soul—which resulted in investigations. Many such accidents occur all year long that we quietly ignore. This situation concerns the roads outside the cities where our resources are almost non-existent. In the cities, where emergency centers exist, the situation is more unfortunate.

One calls the emergency services to report that a sick person needs help. The answer is that all ambulances are busy and that they should order a taxi. Finally, after several contacts, they consent to send an ambulance. When the ambulance arrives, it lacks basic equipment. It does not even have syringes. The ambulance driver asks whether a place has been reserved for the patient in the hospital. He is told, No. He says, I will take your patient only if you have reserved a room in the hospital. In other cases, they take the emergency patient to the hospital gate and unload him there.

In conclusion, he said: Considering the above cases, which occur routinely, I suggest that the necessary funds be placed at the disposal of the Ministry of Health and Treatment to strengthen the emergency services and purchase ambulances. The emergency services administration must be strengthened. The emergency personnel must be retrained, and their work must be supervised. The emergency centers of all hospitals must be instructed to accept all emergency patients without exception, and in Tehran a 24-hour unit must be created to coordinate admitting patients to the hospitals.

Sadeqi-Azad, Kalibar Deputy

Whether the enemies of Islam and the revolution like it or not, thank God, the Islamic revolution has been exported to the rest of the world.

Mas'ud Sadeqi-Azad, the Kalibar deputy, was the fourth pre-agenda speaker. He referred to the 13-year success of the revolution despite the conspiracies of global oppressors and the imposed war and said: Despite hundreds of social, economic, and political problems, thank God, the regime of the Islamic Republic has been able to carry out at least one service and developmental task in 65,000 villages and get the bankrupt and sick economy on the path to growth and development.

He added: In the five-year plan of the regime of the tyrant, despite the smaller population in the rural areas, up to 1357 [21 March 1978-20 March 1979], only 8,000 km of rural roads were built, whereas 52,000 km of rural roads have been built since the revolution. Until 1357 [1978-79], only 4,500 out of 65,000 villages had electricity, whereas at the present, 450,000, which is 68 percent of the rural population of the country, enjoy electrical power. At the present, 15,000 villages have piped water; 10,000 public baths were built, as well as 40,000 rural libraries; and nearly 10,000 agreements in principle were issued to create jobs in the villages. In 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] alone, in the city of Kalibar, 90 projects were carried out with developmental funds.

The speaker continued: In 1357 [1978-79], the number of telephones throughout the country was 850,000. Today it is more than 2.5 million. In 1357 [1978-79], there were 4,000 public and long-distance phones, and today there are more than 15,000. In 1357 [1978-79], there were 89 cities with automatic telephones, and today nearly 500 cities have them. In 1357 [1978-79], there were 6,000 inter-city channels, and today there are 37,000. And finally, in 1357 [1978-79] there were fewer than 10,000 long-distance channels, and today there are more than 72,000.

In regard to energy, he said: In 1358 [21 March 1979-20 March 1980], we only had 2,000 km of gas outreach network, and this year, up to the end of 1369 [20 March 1991; as published], we have 25,300 km. In 1358 [1979-80], we only had 5,000 natural gas outlets, and this year we have 1.3 million.

He added: In all areas of education, hospital beds, admission of students to the universities, and so on, the ratio is the same. In the area of foreign policy, not only are we not in isolation, but as a superior ideology, we are witnessing logic, reasoning, and strategies whose reflections are evident in the voices of truth in Africa, the Islamic world, and anywhere where there is discussion of rights and a demand for rights.

In continuation, concerning the leader's recent visit to Bushehr Province and his meeting with the people, he said: Which leader goes among the people in this manner and is welcomed so enthusiastically by the people? Where in history has the movement of the people been expressed in this way? Are the Algerian elections not another indication of the glory of our beloved revolution and its impact on the Islamic nations? Did the Algerian election not make the trembling palaces of the oppressors shatter? Did the magnificent welcome the people of Sudan and Senegal gave our beloved president not indicate that this revolution and its values were right?

In continuation, the Kalibar deputy emphasized that the grand leader, the president, and the heads of the legislative and judicial branches, as well as other officials have always emphasized unity. He said: The United States must know that we continue strongly and steadfastly to defend with our heart and soul the pure Islam which was manifested in the leadership of our late Imam and continues under the leadership of Ayatollah Khamene'i. Whether the enemies of the revolution and Islam like it or not, thank God, our revolution has been exported.

In conclusion, Mas'ud Sadeqi-Azad referred to the blood that has been spilled for the Islamic revolution in the past years and asked everyone to preserve the unity of the word and defend Islam by making use of what we have in common.

Mohammad Reza Shafi'i, Fuman Deputy

The sapling of the Islamic government, which was planted by the blessed hand of the Imam in Iran, removes any obstacle from the path and conquers the world.

The fifth pre-agenda speaker was Mohammad Reza Shafi'i from Fuman.

He said: This year we mark the anniversary of the Islamic revolution at a time when the Islamic revolution has attained shining victories on the international scene.

We witness the crumbling of the communist regime and the disarray of the former Soviet Union, a superpower which was for years the Mecca of the ideals and hopes of large numbers of intellectuals in the world, in support of which large groups in the world shouted slogans and encouraged people to join the socialist system and Marxist ideology and considered the Soviet Union an example worthy of emulation. It has become clear to the world that this regime was not only hollow but that it has fallen from the seat of being a superpower. When one looks at the important message of the Imam to that country and sees the Imam's thought in predicting the fall of the Soviet Union and the Marxist regime, one truly feels proud and happy. This is something that not only we but the entire world has come to believe in.

Referring to the recent article in DER SPIEGEL regarding the Imam's prediction, he said: This analysis by the enemy shows the greatness of our revolution. Now is the time to take the opportunity, to act alertly and not allow foreigners to come to the Muslim republics of our northern neighbor. Rather, by sending agricultural, military, and other experts, we must be able to expand our relations with them and prevent the entry of foreigners.

It was heard that in the Azarbaijan Republic, American companies have started activities to develop their agriculture. This is unfortunate for us and will be dangerous in the future.

In another part of his speech, he referred to the successful presence of the president in the conference of the Islamic countries and the recent political victory of the Islamic Republic in regard to identifying the regime of Iraq as the aggressor in the imposed war and said: This victory was so valuable that not only did it strengthen the position of our regime on the international scene but stunned our enemies, despite their disruptive actions. They realized that the sapling of the Islamic government that was planted by the blessed hand of the old man of Jamaran in Iran, watered by the blood of thousands of martyrs and freed disabled prisoners of war, supported by the prayers of thousands of suffering parents, widows, and orphaned children and the capable leadership which is comprised of the revolutionary self-sacrificers and the children of Kowsar and her holiness Zahra and which is in charge of protecting it, removes any obstacle from the path and will conquer the world. This is the promise of God. The enemies are stunned by our victory.

Seyyed 'Abbas Musavi, Izeh Deputy

Seyyed 'Abbas Musavi from Izeh was the last pre-agenda speaker.

In the beginning, referring to the significant victory of the Algerian Muslims in the recent elections of that country, he expressed hope that in the near future we will witness the victories of Muslims in taking over governments of other Islamic countries.

He continued: Considering the absolute belief in religious guardianship and the empathy and ethical behavior he has displayed so far, we would like to praise the honorable governor general of Khuzestan, the revered brother Engineer Tavalla'i, for his positive actions. Through proper planning and management of the overwhelming problems of the rich province of Khuzestan, he has been able to take steps to solve the problems regarding the major portion of the destruction created by the imposed war, and through essential and fundamental actions in operating and reconstructing the factories and the oil industry, to solve social problems and implement important agricultural projects, dam building, seven agriculture and industries units, and the creation of highways. It is hoped that the powerful government, particularly the honorable minister of interior, will help him expedite the elimination of problems in that province.

In another part of his speech, the Izeh deputy thanked the president for particular attention to Khuzestan Province and referred to the problems of his constituency and Khuzestan Province in regard to the existing shortages of drinking water, electricity, and roads and asked the officials to take steps to eliminate these problems.

Ratifications

The first item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles yesterday was the "bill to amend the direct tax law" ratified in Esfand 1366 [20 February-20 March 1988] by the Majles, which was ratified.

Also in this meeting, the legislative proposal to combine the Ministries of Industries, Heavy Industries, and Mines and Metals and establish the Ministry of Industries and Mines was discussed with a double urgency request. Explaining this proposal, Karim Malekasa said: Given the open economy policy which we are pursuing now and the fact that the ministries must carry out headquarters work, there is no need for more than one headquarters in the country, so the rest of the ministries must be combined.

Seyyed Reza Akrami spoke in opposition to the double urgency of the proposal: There is no argument about the industries of our country being administered comprehensively and under a single management. But will expanding them solve the problem? Do we want to combine the industries of the country or the industrial ministries? Since the Martyr's Foundation, the Fifteen Khordad Foundation, the regional endowment agency, the emergency committee, etc., are engaged in industrial work, and since these three ministries cannot respond to the problems, how do you hope to have a single one to do the job? At the present time, the industry is growing. Why do you want to prevent this growth? We agree in principle, but we oppose the urgency. Let us examine this issue at the opportune time and in a calm environment. Now that we are about to have elections, do not disturb the situation. This action will cause anxiety among the people, the officials, and the industrial units.

Al-Hoseyni, the Arak deputy, spoke in support of the double urgency and, stating that this proposal is very

important for the national industries, pointed out: We do not want to create a disturbance. For this reason, we want to work rapidly. With the work that has been done in the expert committee, we want to have this done before the budget. If this is not done before the budget, we will not be able to do anything in 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] either. In the 1371 [1992-93] budget, we cannot allot more than $1 billion to this ministry.

Following the opposing and supporting speeches, the double urgency of the proposal was put to a vote and was not ratified. Then, a single urgency was put to a vote and was ratified.

It is worthy of note that this proposal will be sent to the committee for discussion and then come to the Majles for final ratification.

Also in this meeting the question by Gholamreza Fada'i, the Arak deputy, to the minister of mines and metals in regard to steps taken concerning pollution control in the Arak aluminum factory and the question by Seyyed Jalil Seyyedzadeh, the Bakhtaran deputy, to the minister of commerce in regard to not observing the necessary regulations in the appointment of the general director of Bakhtaran, not evaluating him, and not announcing the results of the inspections of the Chamber of Commerce of this province were received.

The Majles will hold an open session on Sunday of next week.

On the Margins of the Majles

As was reported in the "On the Margins of the Majles" column yesterday, Qazizadeh, the Sarakhs and Fariman deputy, in one of his memos to the deputies addressing the executive officials, had asked the minister of intelligence to investigate the work of RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent.

Hence, yesterday morning in the open session of the Majles, RESALAT'S parliamentary correspondent sent a message three times by messenger to Mr. Qazizadeh in order to find out the problem. But, as was expected, the above-mentioned refused to speak or respond to the questions of our correspondent.

Of course, the reason for this action of Mr. Qazizadeh is still vague to our correspondent. Also in this connection, the board of directors of the Majles, in response to the question by our correspondent in regard to receiving Mr. Qazizadeh's original memo, stated that this issue is the responsibility of the public relations office and the matter must be pursued through that channel.

Upon going to the public relations office, they said that the original copy of the "memo" had been placed at the disposal of Mr. Basij, an employee of the office of news affairs. That person, who has so far created obstacles in regard to the activities of RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, refused to present the original copy of the memo and has given it back to Mr. Qazizadeh.

At the same time, a member of the public relations office made it explicit several times that he has given the original copy of the memo to Mr. Basij.

All this is while the newspaper should have been informed why Mr. Qazizadeh has made a memo in regard to the activities of its correspondent.